

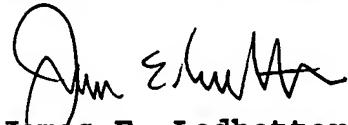
the present application. Accordingly, Walton does not qualify as prior art against the claims of the present application.

To perfect the claim to priority, the Applicant encloses an English translation of the previously filed Japanese priority application, 2003-012312, with a statement that the translation is accurate.

In view of the above, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

If any issues remain which may best be resolved through a telephone communication, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned at the local Washington, D.C. telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: March 31, 2006
JEL/DWW/att

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